

Senate Resolution 986

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Thomas of the 54th, Seay of the 34th, Unterman of the 45th, Orrock of the 36th and others

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Recognizing the growing incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in this state and
2 encouraging the Georgia Department of Community Health to pass regulations requiring the
3 collection of data relating to incidents of this disease in this state; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 16 million people in the United States are diagnosed with
5 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), equal to one in 19 Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, COPD is a progressive disease that includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis,
7 alone or in combination; and

8 WHEREAS, the prevalence of COPD has almost doubled over the last 25 years, and it stands
9 as the only major disease with an increasing death rate; and

10 WHEREAS, COPD accounted for 1.5 million emergency room visits in 2000 and is the
11 fourth leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for 127,000 deaths in 2004;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, COPD can be controlled and its progression slowed with proper treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Health currently collects public health
15 data relating to the incidence of other diseases but does not currently collect public health
16 data relating to the prevalence of COPD in the State of Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, this state's public health organization bears a responsibility in identifying the
18 burden that COPD places on its citizens and on the health care system and in insuring that
19 appropriate and effective treatments are available; and

20 WHEREAS, accurate data on incidents of COPD in Georgia should be used to monitor the
21 frequency, incidence, cause, effect, and severity of COPD; and

22 WHEREAS, COPD data should be used to assist the department in research and the
23 evaluation of disease management practices in order to assess the current standard of care for
24 COPD patients; and

25 WHEREAS, annual data on COPD should be reported to the Governor by the Department
26 of Community Health, along with recommendations for improving treatment options for
27 citizens with COPD.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 encourage the Georgia Department of Community Health to pass regulations requiring the
30 collection of data relating to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, along with the collection
31 of data on other diseases and conditions in this state.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to members of the public and the press.